SIDNEY HYRUM EPPERSON

Born in 1832 in Indiana. Came to Utah in 1852, David Wood Company. Bishop Midway Ward.

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EPPERSON, SIDNEY HYRUM (son of Elias Epperson and Nancy Dalton of Indiana). Born 1832 in Indiana. Came to Utah 1852, David Wood company.

Married Mary Jane Robey 1853 at Provo, Utah (daughter of Jeremiah Robey and Ruth Tucker—pioneers 1852, David Wood company), who was born 1836, and came to Utah with parents. Their children: Sidney Theophelis b. Jan. 23, 1854, m. Eliza Van Wagoner; Charles Alonzo b. March 15, 1856, m. Libbie Coleman; Mary Louverna b. July 28, 1858, m. Dean Forrest; Albert b. Sept. 10, 1860; Elias Tipton b. Sept. 16, 1862, m. Janey Bonner; Viola Delphina b. Sept. 26, 1864, m. Adelbert Alexander; Robert Ross b. Jan. 20, 1867, m. Bertha Springer; William Henry b. Dec. 17, 1868; Simon S. b. Jan. 12, 1871, m. Lydia M. Smith April 4, 1889; Daniel D. b. Feb. 17, 1873; Ruth Lunica b. May 20, 1875, m. William J. Mathews; Frank S. b. June 26, 1877, m. Ada Mohlman; Elmer Drew b. Dec. 23, 1879, m. Maud Barker.

Settled at Provo 1852; moved to Snake Creek 1859. Bishop of Midway ten years. Member Utah militia; captain of Provo Valley cavalry three years; major. Indian war veteran Farmer and stockraiser.

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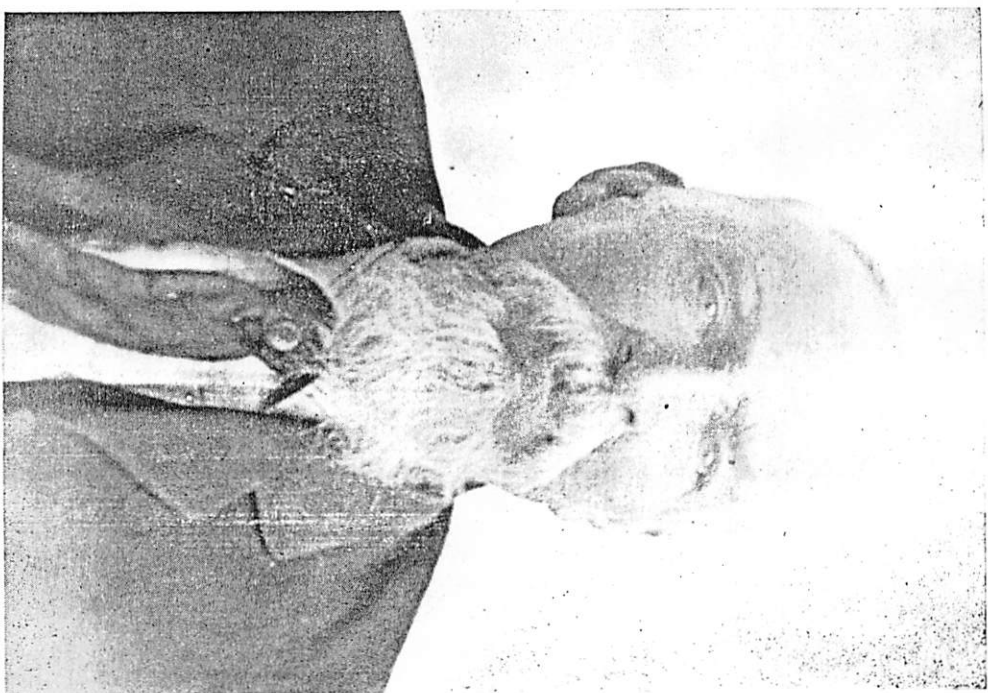
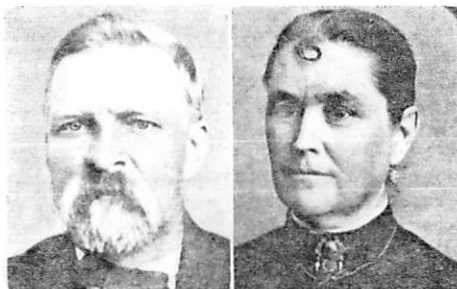
Dedicated to
SIDNEY H. EPPERSON
and FAMILY

SIDNEY H. EPPERSON, PIONEER

Sidney operated a Feed & Stable

Sidney Hyrum Epperson

SIDNEY HYRUM AND MARY JANE ROBEY EPPERSON

Sidney Hyrum Epperson was born December 31, 1832 in Montgomery County, Indiana, a son of Elias and Nancy Lunica Dalton Epperson. He married Mary Jane Robey in 1853. Died June 1, 1913 in Midway.

Mary Jane Robey Epperson was born April 28, 1836 in Harrison County, West Virginia, a daughter of Jeremiah and Ruth Tucker Robey. She died May 15, 1915 in Midway.

In 1837 the Epperson family moved to Lipton, Iowa, where they settled on a quarter section making a new home.

In 1852 they had the urge to move further west. They purchased a farm on Honey Creek which was then being rapidly populated by the Latter-day Saints who were preparing for their exodus west to follow the main company who had earlier preceded them.

It was in Council Bluffs, Iowa where the Eppersons first heard the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. Some of them became converts and had a desire to go to the Rocky Mountains with migrating saints, among them Sidney H. Epperson, his sister, Martha, and her husband, Henry Busenbark. They made the trek across the plains with Captain Wood's Company. They arrived in Salt Lake where they stayed but a short time, then moved on to Provo where they settled for a few years.

In 1853 Sidney H. Epperson married Mary Jane Robey, a beautiful girl from "Old Virginny" whom he met while crossing the plains. They had a family of 13 children.

His early life had prepared him for rugged pioneer life which he experienced as he built his home in Provo. Some years the crops were good, other times they were destroyed by grasshoppers and crickets. Their greatest trouble was the Indians who stole their cattle and mules and pillaged their farms. They were undaunted in their faith and courage.

Sidney became a member of the Utah Militia and was appointed Captain of the Provo Cavalry and was later commissioned Major of the U.S. Government, of Indian War Veterans. He was an outpost bodyguard of Brigham Young.

In April of 1859 he decided to move north with a group of other families, Jeremiah Robey, Mark Smith, David Wood and Jesse McCarrol. They settled on the west banks of a stream called Snake Creek by a cottonwood grove on the west side of the valley.

At a meeting held June 26, 1862 Sidney H. Epperson was appointed Presiding Elder of the upper settlement with John Fausett, first, and Samuel Thompson, second counselors. This was his first calling to labor in the Church.

He was a man of faith and courage and felt the responsibility of leadership and unity of his group of people. They were all busily engaged in grubbing willows and sage brush, breaking land and making irrigation ditches, constructing roads, digging dugways to the canyons for fire wood, blasting rock and bridging streams. They worked hard six days a week, but rested on the Sabbath day and went to church to worship their God.

When the two settlements were forced to move together for protection from the Indians, Sidney H. Epperson helped make the survey for the new townsite.

He was appointed by Jos. Murdock to preside over the Midway Ward until April 10, 1870 when he was released.

Within a short time the log houses around the public square were removed. Sidney Epperson finished his new home of lumber in the late Autumn of 1872, and it is still standing, a monument to this worthy pioneer.

Mary Jane Robey Epperson came to Utah with her parents in August, 1852, settling in Provo, Utah. She remembered very distinctly many of the incidents of Nauvoo, such as the martyrdom of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, whom she saw many times during their life, and also after their death. She used to accompany her brother, Theophilus, to the temple where their father was working, to take his dinner to him. She was quite young when she crossed the plains, and remembered many of the amusing, as well as the pathetic incidents in their long journey to the West.

In 1853 she was married to Sidney H. Epperson, by whom she had 13 children, ten sons and three daughters. In 1859 they came to Midway among the first to settle in this valley. She was chosen as the President of the first Relief Society organized in Midway, and held that position for a number of years. She was always a friend to the poor and needy and her home was open to any who happened her way, and who was hungry or weary. She had a very cheerful, congenial disposition and had many friends.

She was an industrious, hard-working woman. She helped care for the sick. She was a most devoted mother to her children, always willing to do and sacrifice for their comfort. She died after a brief illness, and was mourned as a loving mother, a kind friend, and a good neighbor. She was always faithful and true to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and died as she had lived, a true Latter-day Saint.

Children of Sidney and Mary Jane Epperson were:

Signey Theophelus married Eliza Van Wagenen

Charles Alonzo married Elizabeth B. Coleman

Mary Laverna Epperson married Dean Forrest later John Baum

Jeremiah Albert, single

Tipton Elias married Mary Jane Bonner

Viola Delphina married Adelbert Alexander

Robert Ross married Bertha Drew Springer

William Henry married Katherine Bunnell

Simon Shelby married Lydia Melissa Smith

Daniel David, single

Ruth Lenica married William Mathews, later James McNaughton

Frank Sherman married Ada Mohlman, later Laverna Horrocks

Elmer Drew married Maud Barker, later Mae Davis.